

Exhibit N
Voris Deposition Excerpts

In the Matter of:

*Very Reverend Georges F. de Laire, J.C.L. vs
Gary Michael Voris, et al.*

Gary Michael Voris

February 08, 2023

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Very Reverend Georges F. de Laire, J.C.L. (b)(6) Videotaped
Gary Michael Voris, et al.

Gary Michael Voris
February 08, 2023

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

CIVIL ACTION NO. 1:21-cv-00131-JL

-----X
VERY REVEREND GEORGES F. de
LAIRE, J.C.L.,

Plaintiff,

v.

GARY MICHAEL VORIS, ANITA CAREY,
ST. MICHAEL'S MEDIA a/k/a CHURCH
MILITANT,

Defendants.

-----X
VIDEOTAPED 30(B)(6) DEPOSITION OF ST. MICHAEL'S MEDIA
A/K/A CHURCH MILITANT BY GARY MICHAEL VORIS,
AND GARY MICHAEL VORIS, INDIVIDUALLY, DAY 2

Conducted Remotely
2900 Hilton Road
Ferndale, Michigan
February 8, 2023
10:06 a.m. to 6:09 p.m.

Reporter: Laurie J. Berg, CCR, RPR, CRR, CLR, CER

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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Also Present:

Father Georges F. de Laire
(Present via videoconference.)

Christine Niles, Esquire
(Present via videoconference.)

Luc-Bernard Val, Legal Video Specialist
(Present via videoconference.)

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1 don't know if it's a video script or an article
2 script, I can't remember.

3 MS. ELOVECKY: Okay. For the record,
4 there -- there wasn't an article that was similar to
5 this that was produced along with the other articles
6 that were produced, purportedly having been either
7 authored by or contributed to by Balestrieri, and I
8 also searched the Church Militant website and wasn't
9 finding this. It's -- it's not -- not really that
10 relevant. Just for the purpose of the record, I
11 haven't seen that it was published.

12 BY MS. ELOVECKY:

13 Q. But I'd like to just turn our attention to
14 the e-mail. So if you look at the bottom of CM1284,
15 which is on your screen now, Christine Niles states,
16 "I will publish this under your pseudonym Tom Jones.
17 Michael, do you want this up today?"

18 Did I read that correctly?

19 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Yes, you did.

20 Q. And when you go up about to -- like one-third
21 down the page, Ms. Niles corrects herself and says,
22 "Sorry, I meant Tom Moore."

23 Do you see that?

24 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Yes, I do.

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1 Q. Okay. And so, do you know if Mr. Balestrieri
2 ever did publish anything on the Church Militant
3 website under the name Tom Moore?

4 A. I don't remember, but the Tom Moore name was
5 a name he and I came up with very early on just to be
6 able to refer to him, not in a publication fashion,
7 but just to sorta keep his identity secret from, you
8 know, people who would be interested in finding out
9 where we were getting information from.

10 So there was a time -- I don't remember when
11 we stopped doing it, but there was a time, for a very
12 long time, where he was actually in my phone as Tom
13 Moore.

14 Q. Okay. Now, if you go -- so I -- we just
15 pointed out that e-mail a third of the page down from
16 Ms. Niles, but I want to go the one below that, which
17 was Monday, April 23rd, 2018, at 11:35 a.m.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Yes, I do.

20 Q. Okay. All right. So I guess there, she's
21 saying, "Isn't that the name you approved of with Mike
22 Sherry?"

23 Did I read that correctly?

24 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Yes, that's

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1 correct.

2 Q. who is Mike Sherry?

3 A. He's our IT guy.

4 Q. Okay. And so, are you aware of
5 Mr. Balestrieri ever publishing on the Church Militant
6 website under the name Tom Jones, which was the m --
7 the misstated one, right?

8 A. I -- yeah, I don't believe so.

9 Q. Okay. And then when you look at the top of
10 the pa -- the top e-mail on the page, Mr. Balestrieri
11 states, "After reflection, let's use the pseudonym and
12 pen name of a purported priest to try and throw off
13 the scent, like 'Rev. Michael X.'"

14 Did I read that correctly?

15 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) That's correct.

16 Q. Okay. And he did, in fact, publish under
17 that name; isn't that right?

18 A. I believe so. I -- if you tell me so, yes,
19 because I'm pretty sure I have a memory of that, but I
20 don't -- I couldn't -- I'm under oath, I don't want to
21 say that I know for certain, but I'm pretty sure
22 that's correct.

23 Q. We will scroll through the articles that were
24 produced and you'll see that that was the case, but

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1 we'll --

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. -- look at it on the record. So --

4 A. I shall take your word.

5 Q. Well, you won't have to. I'll show you, so.

6 (Laughter.)

7 BY MS. ELOVECKY:

8 Q. And then he also states, "That way a lot of
9 suspicion would be directed to all canonists in the
10 U.S. called Michael --

11 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Mm-hmm.

12 Q. -- plus it's a great patronal name, right"
13 question mark.

14 Did I read that correctly?

15 A. (Deponent viewing exhibit.) Yes, you did.

16 Q. Okay. So do you have any understand -- well,
17 when you received this e-mail, did you have any
18 understanding of what he meant by to tro -- "try to
19 throw off the scent"?

20 A. Well, sure, because the information that he
21 is providing in this script is very sensitive
22 information that bishops and chanceries keep very
23 close to their vest for the obvious reason. And
24 again, you have to kind of step outside of the e-mail

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1 particular for a moment and look at the context.

2 The context is that the sacrament of marriage
3 in the church and the Catholic teaching in the church
4 is, if you are validly -- I'm sorry -- if you are
5 married in the church, the presumption is it is a
6 valid marriage and you are married until one of you
7 dies.

8 The annulment process is engaged in by a
9 couple who come to believe, rightly or wrongly, that
10 they were never validly married. So -- and if they
11 weren't validly married, then they're not married in
12 the church. They might be civilly married, and that's
13 disposed of with a divorce, but in the sacramental
14 realm, they would be -- the marriage would have to be
15 annulled.

16 So you approach the church, normally, your
17 home diocese, and you say, I'm -- we or I am appealing
18 my case or filing my case to have our marriage
19 declared null and void, as in it never happened to
20 begin with. Despite the fact that you may have, you
21 know, a nice church wedding, a nice reception and
22 honeymoon and you've had kids and the whole bit,
23 something comes up, down the road, a piece of
24 information arises in the course of the couple

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1 believing they are married, which raises the question
2 in, at least one of their minds, hey, are we actually
3 validly married?

4 So, for example, if -- if one party, husband
5 or wife, knew at the time of the wedding, the
6 marriage, that they never intended to have children
7 and they withheld that information from their spouse,
8 that's grounds for an annulment, because in Catholic
9 teaching, for a marriage to be valid, there's a number
10 of conditions, but one of them has to be, is -- that
11 you have to be open to the -- you know, to having
12 children.

13 Now, obviously, some marriages don't --
14 whatever, there's health issues, that doesn't make the
15 marriage invalid and null. It just means that the
16 health reasons prevented it. But if you could get
17 pregnant, you would have the baby or babies.

18 But if you walk into it with the intention of
19 defying the church's teaching and you just keep that
20 to yourself and you don't reveal it to either your
21 husband or your wife and it comes out later on, that
22 marriage is invalid.

23 So the injured party, who did want children,
24 does want children, would go appeal to the church, to

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1 the diocese and say, hey, here's my situation; she
2 lied or he lied, whatever it is. And so, you know, I
3 wanted children and they never did and they lied to me
4 about it, so the church would grant the -- would grant
5 the annulment, meaning the marriage never occurred,
6 sacramentally, to begin with, so both parties are now
7 free to go marry.

8 Those -- but there are also many abuses in
9 the realm of people filing for annulments and many
10 people in the church, including, for example,
11 Cardinal Burke, who has given many talks on this topic
12 around the country and at the Canon Law Society of
13 America dinners and conferences, are -- many people
14 are on the record as saying that the staffs in
15 individual chanceries, when it comes to annulment
16 cases, are ridiculously understaffed and very poorly
17 educated, and they're handing out annulments like
18 candy, meaning they shouldn't be doing them, but
19 they're just -- they're overwhelmed and overworked and
20 they have no idea what they're doing. They're
21 completely incompetent.

22 So that's what we're -- that's what the point
23 of this discussion he and I had was, and that's what
24 this first article or script was pointing to. So you

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1 might imagine, you know, living proof of the
2 incompetence charge that half the dioceses are giving
3 out an annulment to every single case that comes
4 before them and then, of the remaining half, it's
5 through the roof with them as well. That's quite a
6 black eye on the part of the church.

7 And the only people who would know this
8 information are the canonists themselves, like, in
9 this case, Marc, and other canonists that we have
10 discussed this with who -- besides Marc, who also
11 agree with that take, that the -- they're -- they're
12 loaded with incom -- I mean, Cardinal Burke has
13 stood up -- stood up and given speeches about this.
14 He's talked in the general, when he talks about that,
15 but Marc and other canonists have given us the names
16 of horrible -- many canonists, as a matter of fact,
17 have given us the names of people working in the
18 annulment area of various dioceses, multiple dioceses,
19 and all of it lines up.

20 And the only way to prove that it lines up is
21 to have these actual numbers, which the church doesn't
22 want people seeing, because it makes the case that
23 you're incompetent, you're screwing around with the
24 sacraments, which is the life blood of the church,

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1 you're -- you bishops are not doing the job you should
2 be doing.

3 So, you know, you're not keeping guard over
4 people's souls and the -- and the authenticity of the
5 sacraments and, you know, you're causing families to,
6 you know, break up and, you know -- you know,
7 fatherless kids and one thing after another and all
8 the ills that fall from this sort of thing, well, it
9 becomes pretty clear pretty fast why nobody who's
10 relaying this information to us would want to have
11 their name attached to it.

12 Q. And it's your testimony that you received
13 this information from Mr. Balestrieri but also other
14 -- also other canonists --

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. -- is that correct?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. Okay. And what is the purpose, if you
19 know -- strike that.

20 what was your understanding in April of 2018
21 as to why publishing under a pseudonym was favorable
22 to just publishing anonymously, such as with the
23 Church Militant byline?

24 A. Because it proves that -- it -- it attaches a

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1 -- an office to the material -- as in Reverend,
2 attaches an -- an office to the material, which gives
3 us a greater weight that it's actually authentic.

4 Q. And what is the office that the word
5 "Reverend" implies?

6 A. Priest.

7 Q. But that's not true, is it?

8 A. What -- what's not true, Reverend?

9 Q. That Marc Balestrieri is a priest?

10 A. No, it's also true his name isn't Tom Moore
11 or Michael X.

12 Q. So the purpose was to attach an office to the
13 author of this article which was not genuine, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. The -- our -- our concern wasn't the -- our
17 concern was that, is the information accurate and is
18 it authentic, as in it can be authenticated by
19 somebody who knows and that is what we were going to
20 do here, I don't know that we actually did it as you
21 said, if this never actually made it to print. But
22 anyway, yes, that would've been the -- that would've
23 been my thinking, certainly, behind it.

24 Q. And there was no concern that the readership

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1 was being misled to thinking that an article was being
2 written by a priest when it was not --

3 A. No.

4 Q. -- is that accurate?

5 A. No. No. Yeah, that -- that is accurate.
6 No, there wouldn't be -- again, it's the information.
7 It's the story that matters.

8 I mean, you know, from a -- from a
9 journalistic standpoint, I mean, think of the Pentagon
10 papers or, you know, Deep Throat with Watergate or any
11 of those things. The point is, even the -- even the
12 fact-checkers at the New York Times had to make crap
13 up when it came to the Russia, Russia, Russia stuff
14 and to convince their public that the information was
15 accurate, they attributed it to inside sources, when
16 the whole thing was a pack of lies.

17 But nonetheless, in this case, we happen to
18 know it wasn't lies, because not only was Marc, who
19 was a person who had deep knowledge of this stuff, but
20 also other canonists who were able to verify all of
21 this information for us. So it's not a question of
22 being deceptive about the author, it's a question
23 about being accurate about the information from an
24 authoritative source.

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1 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

2 MIDDLESEX, SS.

3
4 I, Laurie J. Berg, Certified Court Reporter,
5 Registered Professional Reporter, Certified Realtime
6 Reporter, Certified LiveNote Reporter, Certified
7 eDepoze Reporter and Notary Public, in and for the
8 Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that
9 pursuant to appropriate notice of taking deposition,
10 there remotely appeared before me the following named
11 person, to wit: GARY MICHAEL VORIS, who was by me
12 duly sworn; that he was thereupon examined upon his
13 oath and his examination reduced to writing by me; and
14 that the deposition is a true record of the testimony
15 given by the witness.

16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
17 hand and seal this 20th day of February, 2023.

18
19 My commission expires:
20 September 14, 2023

21
22
23
24


Notary Public